

AMAA

News



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The Rev. Jirair Sogomian
Editor



The Participants in the 82nd Annual Meeting of the AMAA held in Detroit, MI

When We Are Most Like God

Jirair M. Sogomian

Through the years, one of my favorite hymns has been the “Morning Song” melody of “Awake, Awake to Love and Work.” The lyrics of the third stanza have always haunted me by their challenge “To give and give, and give again, as God’s own grace is free; To spend yourself nor count the cost; To serve most gloriously the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.”

Through personal experience, I have come to believe that the biblical aphorism “*It is in giving that we receive*” is most certainly true, and that it is in giving that we are most like God! For the God we worship is indeed a giving God who not only has given us the best of all that we have, as the lyrics of the hymn express, but has given us in the first place the grace that has the ability to receive. How blessed the human awareness is that everything we are and have and hope to be, is ultimately a divine gift to us, so beautifully and mysteriously expressed in the creation stories of Genesis, “*And God said ... let there be ... and there was ... and God saw that it was good.*” In a sermon preached by a layman, I recently heard, we were reminded once again that at the end of each day of creation, God saw that what he had created for us was good. But when God created humankind in God’s image - who were to be the recipients and stewards of all the good that God had created for them - at the end of that glorious day of creation, the author of that biblical account says, “*God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.*”

Yet, this giving God we worship was not satisfied just by giving us the precious gift of life and all the wonderful blessings that grace our lives with meaning, joy and purpose. This giving God we worship, is a God who has given us his own self in a most humble and amazing way. And he has done so, because he loves us to such an extent that only total self-giving could express such love! The evangelist John expresses this mystery in one of the best known verses of Scripture, “*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,*” he gave his most precious ... which in Trinitarian theology we understand to mean “his own self.” Yes, we are most like God when we, in total and radical acknowledgment of the lordship of God, sur-

render ourselves to God, and thus surrender what is indeed most precious to us, our own selves, our very being, all that we are and have and hope to be! How easy it is, when we come across other people, to notice within a short span of conversation whether the person speaking to us is the center of the universe, or one who in total self-effacement is “other” oriented, and the self is totally absent except in the awareness of the neighbor’s needs.

One of the mysteries of giving - so beautifully expressed by poets and theologians alike - is best described in what I love to call the “burning bush syndrome.” You recall from the Exodus account (ch.3) that when Moses was confronted by the burning bush, what immediately caught his attention was that even though the bush was intensely burning, it was not consumed. The bush, as the symbol of God’s bright and intense presence, was giving all the light and the heat that it could give, and yet, in a most amazing phenomenon, it was not diminished one bit. We cannot understand that mystery except in our total self-giving. We cannot experience the glory of giving our ultimate without being totally consumed, except in our total self-surrender in love of God and neighbor.

“*To give and give, and give again, as God’s own grace is free; To spend yourself nor count the cost; To serve most gloriously the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be,*” is to discover the blessing of being like God. It is only in our total forgetfulness of self that we discover the blessing that we are not diminished, yes, not even one iota, when we give like God!

Blessed are those who know how to be like God in their giving! May this dimension of Christmas be alive in your celebration and in all your human relationships! Yours in the One who emptied himself for us! □

A M A A's 82nd Annual Meeting

This was a special year for the Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) because it was preceded by a two-day retreat to analyze the future and the direction of the AMAA for the next five to ten years. A separate report on the retreat will be given but it can be stated that the retreat for all the AMAA board members and affiliated members was an unqualified success. It was amazing that the presence of our late beloved Executive Director, Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, was felt during our retreat as many of the projects that are coming to fruition were the results of his vision.

All meetings were hosted by the Armenian Congregational Church of Southfield, Michigan. We have to thank Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, his wife, Rosette and their hard-working committees for accommodating us by their wonderful hospitality. They provided all the meeting rooms, the delicious food during the retreat, the meetings, as well as for the banquet and organized the beautiful concert we had on Saturday evening.

On Friday evening, October 19, the Board of Directors Meeting was held. Also present were the AMAA church and chapter representatives and the delegates from abroad including Armenia.

The Annual Meeting took place in the sanctuary of the Armenian Congregational Church. The various reports were given by the AMAA officers and committee chairmen as well as by the representatives of the AMAA chapters and mission partners from different countries. The results of the election of the new Board Members for the Class of 2004 (which were done through mailed ballots) were announced as the following: Steven H. Aharonian, (M.D.), Ara Balian, Rev. Peter B. Dogramji (Ph.D.), Mardie Juskalian, Herair Mouradian, Jeanmarie Papelian, Alan Philibosian, Jack H. Sheen (M.D.) and Eileen Chopourian Stephey.

At the banquet on Saturday evening, the Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Richard E. Marburger with Mrs. Frances Garabedian. Rev. Tootikian began by giving the invocation. During the dinner, a presentation was

made by the Mayor of Southfield, Mr. Donald Fracassi, to the AMAA. Another presentation was made by the President of Hope for Armenia, Mr. Serge Kurkdjian, of France, to the AMAA and the church. This was a beautiful large photograph of Mt. Ararat and Khor Virab.

Andy Torigian, President of the AMAA, gave some remarks and then introduced the new Executive Director of the AMAA, Rev. Jirair Sogomian, who spoke on the mission of the AMAA.

The concert which took place immediately after the banquet featured professional and volunteer performers, and they were wonderful.

On Sunday, October 21, the 82nd

Annual Meeting Worship Service at the Armenian Congregational Church was attended by all the delegates and members. Among those members and friends of the Association who made the transition from this life to Life Eternal during the past year, were two of AMAA's former Presidents, Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian and Mr. George Philibosian, as well as Rev. Movses Janbazian. The names of those remembered were printed in a special memorial bulletin.

Sunday afternoon and Monday morning the Board of Trustees of Haigazian University



82nd Annual Meeting of the AMAA (l. to r.) Rev. Jirair Sogomian, Executive Director, Andrew Torigian, President and Lawrence Kalfayan, Recording Secretary (above). The participating ministers in the AMAA's Annual Meeting Worship Service.

sity held their semi-annual meeting. This meeting was chaired by the President of the Board of Trustees, Herair Mouradian. Haigazian University recently celebrated its 46th year anniversary. It is now also incorporated in the United States.

Once again, the AMAA praised God for the 83 years of its service and mission to Armenian communities in the 22 countries it serves throughout the world. In the new millennium, we continue to pray and ask God to guide us as we all work for His glory and bring praise to His name. □

"Focusing On The Future" - AMAA Board Retreat

The first-ever AMAA retreat came at a critical time in our work. Like any mission organizations, the AMAA has during the 83 years of its existence seen its focus change as different functions – evangelism, education, and relief – assumed priority. The last decade has seen an explosion of mission work in Armenia, while other mission fields continued to feel urgent needs. And most recently, the appointment of the new executive director, Rev. Jirair Sogomian provided an opportunity to reflect upon our work, and upon the future vision of the AMAA. The retreat was held for two days before this year's Annual Meeting in Southfield, Michigan.

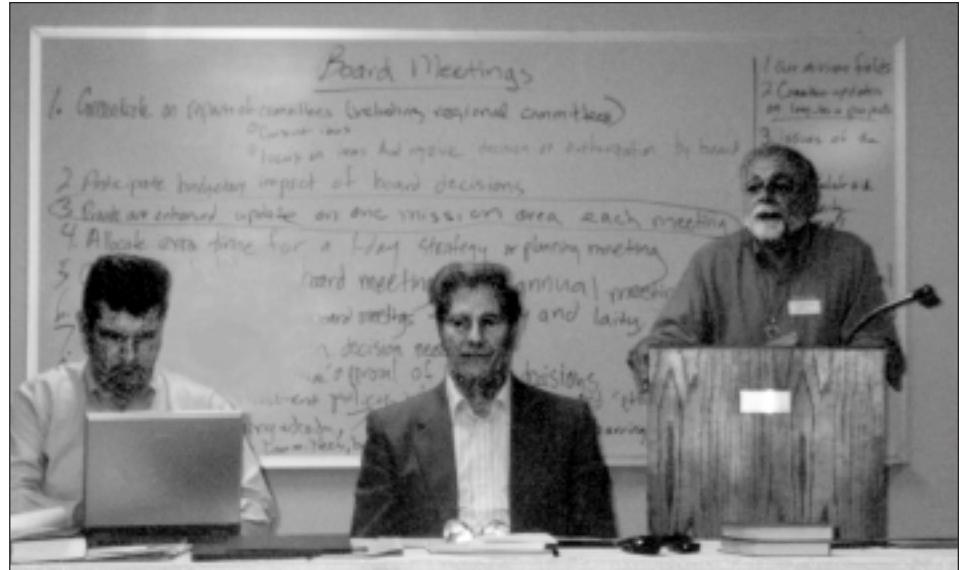
The retreat approached its task in several ways. Rev. Sogomian and Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian began the sessions with an overview of the historical and scriptural foundations of Christian mission activity. Mission representatives from all over the world (and at home in North America) presented an overview of their work, and an assessment of the future. Finally, the Board of Directors met in small groups and general session to set priorities in each mission field, and to set forth an expanded role of the Board in the ongoing work of the AMAA.

The discussions produced dozens of short and long-term goals, including the following:

Armenia: Further development of local church and mission leadership; establishing a permanent Evangelical church site in Yerevan; purchasing a permanent camp site; developing stronger ties to other Christian groups and local intellectual leadership; and spreading of Christian evangelism throughout Armenia, and into surrounding areas as far as Russia.

Middle East: Strengthening of Evangelical schools; spiritual revitalization of Church and Union; development of closer ties to North American churches; and development of long-term financial stability.

North America: Revitalizing youth ministry; identifying and encouraging potential new pastors; establishing a program to train lay leadership; and



establishment of a permanent location for AEUNA offices.

The Board then identified specific actions it can make individually and collectively to realize these goals. Each day's session was preceded by devotions, meditation, and prayers led by Reverends Sogomian and Tootikian, and Evangelical ministers and mission partners from all over the world joined in the worship and substantive meetings. The retreat was structured and planned by Louis Kurkjian, Peter Kougasian and Rev. Sogomian, who

also led most of the sessions except the board discussions which were moderated by Louis and Peter.

Both in closing remarks and in formal evaluations submitted at the conclusion of the retreat, Board members praised the warm spirit of cooperation that had pervaded the sessions. The Board members made a commitment to reassess AMAA progress in light of the long and short-term goals that had been set during the retreat, and to make periodic retreats an ongoing part of the AMAA agenda. □

AMAA Executive Director, Guest of the Vehapar

The Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, The Rev. Jirair Sogomian, was one of the privileged guests of Catholicos Karekin II in the historical days of the week of September 21 to 28, the year of our Lord 2001. During that week, some sixty religious heads, representing twenty five countries, gathered in Yerevan as the guests of the Vehapar to help celebrate important anniversaries and historical events that will long be remembered in the hearts and minds of all Armenians around the world.

The celebrations began by a pilgrimage of that august group to Khor Virab, where the commemoration of the 1700th Anniversary of the acceptance of Christianity as the official Religion of the State had begun by the symbolic lighting of the flame of our faith in the dark dungeon where St. Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned for thirteen years. That flame, lit by the Vehapar, was spread all around the world to help Armenian communities make this Year of Jubilee a year of revival and renewal of our historic faith. A candlelight solemn liturgy in the chapel at Khor Virab once again marked the beginning of the week-long celebrations. Those celebrations included a traditional visit to the hallowed Memorial Monument of Dzidzernagapert; the Sabbatical preparation and blessing of the Muron at the newly constructed outdoor chapel in Holy Etchmiadzin; the dedication and anointing of the newly erected cathedral in Yerevan in the presence of some three thousand faithful gathered from Armenia and all around the world; the celebration of the 1700th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of the Independence of

Armenia hosted by the Catholicos and President Robert Kocharian at the impressive hall of Hamalir; official visits by the representative heads of the worldwide church to President Kocharian and the Catholicos in Etchmiadzin; crowned by the official visit of Pope John Paul II to Armenia, which, among other official observances, included a celebration of the Mass by the Pope at the open air chapel in Etchmiadzin.

Needless to say, these events, which gathered an ecumenical array of clergy heads from all around the world, granted those present and participating a unique opportunity to establish brotherly bonds and warm friendships that will prove invaluable in the life and the future of Christ's universal church. Those established new bonds will hopefully bring the scattered faithful of Christ's church into a new awareness of their oneness in Christ and their common mission to spread the gospel to all the



His Holiness Karekin II, flanked by Mr. Mihran Jizmejian, Executive Secretary of the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada, left, and Rev. Jirair M. Sogomian, Executive Director of the AMAA (above). The Patriarch of the Rumanian Orthodox Church with Rev. Rene Leonian, left, and Rev. Sogomian (middle). Rev. Leonian and Rev. Sogomian with the Bishop David Sahagian of France (below).



Mr. Bert Dokter, head of the Moscow office of Dorcas Aid International, flanked by his two visitors from the AMAA (above). His excellency, Mr. Suren Saakyan, Ambassador of Armenia in Moscow, 2nd left, flanked by Rev. Rene Leonian, Rev. Jirair Sogomian and brother Vahan Frankian.

world. These solemn events took place within the shadow and the background of the tragic events of September 11, in the United States, thus accentuating the vital need of Christ's church to witness to the world Christ's gospel of Love, Peace and Justice, keeping alive the hope that is ours in the God who can overcome our human brokenness and sin.

As one of the many church-related organizations and instrumentalities dedicated to this noble cause, the Armenian Missionary

Association of America (AMAA), the missionary arm of the worldwide Armenian Evangelical Churches, takes holy pride in its participation in these historic, national and solemn events, thanking God whom we all worship, for making us worthy to see these days, and thanking both Catholicos Karekin II and President Robert Kocharian for bringing us together and granting us a vision of what our world could be if all God's children dwelt together as brothers and sisters in the Christ who prayed that we

may all be one. As the Executive Director of the AMAA, The Rev. Jirair Sogomian was privileged to participate in all of the above mentioned events and celebrations, fully aware that the world was watching us in this historic and holy moment of our life as Armenian people, and that they will know who we are and whose we are by the love we show to each other, and the spirit of partnership with which we together address the spiritual needs of our people. The church of Christ may be diverse, but her goal is definitely one, designed and anointed by the God whom we all strive to faithfully serve.

May the Lord bless us as a nation and as a people, and use us as instruments of His love and peace to a sinful and broken world.

The Executive Director's visit to Armenia, this time, included a side trip to Russia (primarily Moscow) with Rev. René Léonian, the AMAA's Representative in Armenia, to study the possibilities of an expanded presence of the AMAA among the two and a half million Armenians presently residing in Russia (Over one half million in Moscow and close to two million in Southern Russia). A good half of this number are recent immigrants in search of jobs and financial security. Quite a few of these men have abandoned their families in Armenia and have started new families in Russia, thus creating the third wave of orphans, we call "economic orphans," as distinguished from "earthquake" and "Karabagh War" orphans. Within this four-day visit, they were able to worship with both Armenian Evangelical churches on Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30, 2001, the one lead by brother Nicolai Dallakian and the other by brother Vahan Frankian. They were also able to visit the Armenian Apostolic Church of Moscow; the Armenian Ambassador to Moscow; the massive, arrested construction of a new Armenian Apostolic Church and Cultural Center that is only 25% complete; and the Dorcas Center and Soup Kitchen in a suburb of Moscow. Their recommendation is that the AMAA establish within the next few years an office center in Moscow, and later on gradually expand AMAA's ministries to the other Armenian centers in Southern Russia, and perhaps neighboring countries. Much prayerful and thoughtful preparation is needed for this new massive venture of evangelism, and your prayerful participation in the shaping of this new mission will be vital.□

Merdinian School Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Twenty Years of Service to God, Community, and Nation. This, in a nutshell, has been the story of the C. & F. Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, California, since its auspicious inception in 1982. Thanks to the faith, fortitude, and dedication of countless visionaries, planners, supporters, friends, and educators, as well as the goodness of benefactress Miss Elise Merdinian, the school has grown from 13 students and a staff of 4 to its current size of 277 students and a staff of 32.

Merdinian's mission is to provide an excellent academic education, a solid knowledge and appreciation of the Armenian and American cultures and traditions, and a thorough understanding of our Christian beliefs and Evangelical heritage. Students are also taught to understand the basic ideals of our democratic system, develop a keen sense of ethics and responsible citizenship, and recognize, tolerate, and appreciate the different cultures surrounding them.

The AMAA, the AEUNA, and successive Boards of Directors and faculties and staffs have been instrumental in the nourishment of Merdinian School, which has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments during the past two decades.

A comprehensive curriculum that meets and surpasses the latest requirements and standards of the State of California was written in 1996-1997 and revised in 2000-2001. The computer lab, established in 1990-1991, has been updated several times and was recently equipped with 21 state of the art computers, providing students and staff access to the most modern technology. Annual Science Fairs, Young Authors Fairs, Multicultural Days, assemblies commemorating Armenian and American holidays, athletic events, and field trips provide students a well-rounded education. Extra curricular activities such as school choir, Art classes, and Dance, Drama, Math, and Geography clubs also enrich the program.

A Christian Evangelical education is ensured by daily chapel services, religion

classes, assemblies, and various activities. The annual week-long retreat by the 7th and 8th grades at Camp AREV is a cherished experience.

Parent and community involvement is strong at Merdinian. The PTO provides the school with unconditional moral and financial support. So does the Women's Auxiliary. The close ties among students, parents, the Board, administration, faculty-staff, friends, and supporters are evident at all PTO and Women's Auxiliary sponsored functions. The Merdinian Athletic Committee's

tremendous support of the school's athletic program is further proof of the high degree of parental involvement. The Alumni Association is testimony to the pride graduates take in their alma mater.

In June 1999, Merdinian received accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for the maximum term of six years. Members of the accrediting committee called Merdinian a "hidden jewel," one that needs better exposure.

The academic year 2001-2002 marks the 20th anniversary of Merdinian School. The Celebration Committee has planned monthly events for the entire year. An exhibit of paintings, a program dedicated to 1700 years of Armenian Christianity encompassing 155 years of the Armenian Evangelical movement and 20 years of Merdinian, a dinner



dance, a student choir concert, an alumni debate, a photo exhibit depicting school life, a board banquet, lecture on the Genocide, a fashion show of traditional Armenian costumes, and a student art show are part of the celebration.

In 1991-1992, as Merdinian was celebrating its 10th anniversary, a campaign was started to raise an endowment fund of 1 million dollars. This goal has not yet been achieved. Special efforts are being made to meet and surpass that challenge, and expand the existing campus to include a high school, which all stakeholders aspire. With Providential blessing, this dream, too, will become a reality. And with the help of each and every member of the Armenian Evangelical community worldwide, the dream may be realized sooner. □

AMAA's Scholarship Program in Lebanon

The long-standing scholarship program of the AMAA in the Armenian Evangelical Schools of the Middle East has had and continues to have a formative impact on the lives of hundreds of Armenians.

The following are testimonies of a few of so many beneficiaries around the Armenian Diaspora who remain grateful to those in the AMAA who believed that supporting the educational journey of an Armenian child in Lebanon or Syria is to prepare for a better future for Armenians and the communities they live in.

Name: Vera Andonian-Svadjian

Position: Principal of the Armenian Evangelical Social Center School of Trad

Ministry: Christian Education Committee of the UAECNE

School where scholarship was granted: Arm. Evang. Torosian School

"I am grateful to God for His love, grace and blessings. I thank Him for the opportunities He gives us to serve Him.

I had my Elementary education in the Arm. Evang. P. & E. Torosian school and continued my high school in the Arm. Evang. Shamlian Tatigian School. Later on, I got my B. A. in Christian Education from Haigazian University and NEST.

During my several years of teaching experience in our Evangelical schools, I taught Bible lessons and took responsibility of the morning chapels. Last year I was invited to be the principal of the Armenian Evangelical Social Center School of Trad.

I thank the AMAA and all those who generously contributed to sponsoring me during the early years of my education. God bless you and all the sponsors."



Name: Sebouh Boyajian

Position: Boarding School Responsible and Teacher at the Arm. Evang. School, Anjar

Ministry: Sunday School Teacher

School where scholarship was granted: Armenian Evangelical Secondary School, Anjar

"In 1976, I was enrolled as a student in the Boarding Department of the Armenian Evangelical Secondary School of Anjar. I came from a family, which was going through a very tough financial situation. I was very happy in the school and I was grateful that I could continue my education away from the war in Beirut.

Through the helping hand of my dear sponsors, I was able to graduate from school.



Since 1988, I am a mathematics and sports teacher in my dear school. I am also a Boarding School Responsible in our Big Boys Section where I was once a student. I enjoy helping people who are in need.

Thanks to the AMAA for allowing me to continue my education."

Armenian Evangelical Schools in Lebanon

The AMAA is and has been a partner of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East in its educational ministry since the late 1930's. Indeed, from the date each of the schools were started in Lebanon or Syria, the AMAA played a major role: in some cases purchasing the land, in others supporting the building project, in others providing equipment, and in all providing scholarship to needy students.

Through the work of the recently formed Educational Councils in both Lebanon and Syria, and with the help of generous partners, such as the Bible Lands and the AMAA, many changes have been introduced and plans drawn to meet such challenges as economic depression, decline in student numbers, general hopelessness, and

other social and economic crisis.

The following are the highlights on the situation and the positive fruits of the new welcome efforts.

2001-2002 Highlights

1. **Building Renovations:** A donation from the AMAA facilitated the facelift projects in all the schools.
2. **Government Examination Results:** The New Curriculum applied by the Ministry of Education in Lebanon reached its third and final year. 88% of students who took the new Brevet and Baccalaureate examination passed, 14 with distinction.
3. **Professional Development Program for Teachers:** More than 120 teachers participated in the 2-day Teachers' Conference, which was

organized in cooperation with the Haigazian University Teacher Training Program.

4. **Computers in Schools:** All the schools were furnished with computer labs

5. **Teachers' Appreciation Award Ceremony:** Ten teachers were awarded gold medals for 25 or more years of educational service.

6. **Competition and Tournament:** Among the highlights of the year were the soccer Tournament for Elementary Schools, the Basketball Tournament for the Secondary Schools and the Best Essay Contest of the higher classes.

7. **Activation of parents' Committees:** Parents' Committees played a more active role in the life of the schools by organizing many activities and raising funds for special projects.□



IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS



THE BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH TO THE ARMENIAN NATION, On the 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as Armenia's State Religion (bilingual - English/Armenian) - by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, 190 pp., hc. No. 295 \$20.00

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH 2000, Compiled and Edited by Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, An album illustrating and describing each organized Armenian Evangelical Church in the Armenian Evangelical world family in 18 countries (over 300 pictures - "snapshot" of the Armenian Evangelical Church family as of the year 2000.) It also includes a directory of Armenian Evangelical ministers worldwide. 125 pp., hc, No. 292 \$50.00

ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY, by Aharon Sapsezian, The Faith of a Nation.143 pp., pb, No. 252 \$10.00

ARMENIAN CHURCH ARCHITECTURE, by Lawrence K. Cone, Armenian church architecture as it is exemplified in stone monuments built throughout the ages, 159 pp., hc. No. 50b \$20.00

ARMENIAN RESOLVE TO SURVIVE TURKISH GENOCIDE, by Douglas Y. Haig, 258 pp., pb. No. 273 \$15.00

ARMENIAN LEGENDS, as told by Armenian great poet/writer Hovhannes Toumanian and translated into English by Arshavir Mckertich, 118 pp., pb. No. 294 \$12.00

ARMENIAN HISTORY TIMELINE, by Hagop & Marilyn Arshagouni, 52 pp., hc, No. 289 \$15.00

ARMENIAN AMERICANS, 48 pp., pb, No. 290 \$5.00

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ARMENIA, by Rev. Sarkis Papajian, 134 pp, pb, No. 140 \$5.00

DAYS OF TRAGEDY IN ARMENIA, by Henry H. Riggs, An Armenian missionary born in the Ottoman Empire, gives a first hand account of events in Kharpert during the Genocide 1915-1917, 220 pp., pb, No. 267 \$25.00

FAITH, CHURCH, MISSION, by Vigen Guroian, 176 pp., pb., No. 244...\$14.95

THE HERITAGE OF ARMENIAN LITERATURE, Vol. I, From the Oral Tradition to the Golden Age 388 pp., hc, No. 288 \$35.00

INHERITING PARADISE, by Vigen Guroian, 95 pp., pb, No. 285....\$11.00

SURVIVAL OR REVIVAL: TEN KEYS TO CHURCH VITALITY, by Carnegie S. Calian, 150 pp., pb., No. 278 \$16.95

ARMENIA -PORTRAITS OF SURVIVAL - Photographs by Jerry Berndt - Introduction by Donald E. Miller, (An album of photographs) pb. No. 240 \$12.00

ALBUM OF PAINTINGS, Contemporary Armenian Art), by Rafael Atoyan, 147 pp., hc., No. 283 \$50.00

MUSA DAGH OR BANISHMENT OF ZEITOUN AND SUEDIA'S REVOLT, by Rev. Dikran Antreassian, 74 pp., pb., No. 234 \$7.00

ARMENIAN NEEDLELACE AND EMBROIDERY, by Alice Odian Kasparian, A photographic collection of more than 100 specimens (1/3rd in color), plus step-by-step instructions for making two dozen easy needlelace patterns for Marash embroidery, 127 pp, hc. No. 120 \$15.00

"PAREE YEGAK" (Welcome) - Hand crafted trivets of solid wood, No. 26a, \$5.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling,

ARMENIAN FAMILY'S CALENDAR - (in Armenian) - Colorful Bible pictures on each page and Bible verses for each day. No. 251 \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

TAPES & CDs

AMAA'S "YOUNG VIRTUOSOS" OF ARMENIA - North American Concert Tour 2000 (CD), Musical Ensemble of 6 talented children - ages 9-14 (violins, cello, flute & Piano) - Armenian and international classical music, No. 293 \$10.00

KOMITAS DIVINE LITURGY (CD), No. 206a 15.00

ARMENIAN FOLK SONGS (CD), Mannik Grigorian - Gevork Dabbaghian Trio - No. 202 \$15.00

BACK TO ARMENIA - Samuel Yervinian (violin) and Armen Aharonian (Piano), (CD), No. 298 \$15.00

GARODK - Stepan Sarafian (Violin) and Armen Aharonian (Piano), (CD), No. 299 \$15.00

KOMITAS, Armenian music for piano - Zemphira Barseghian, (CD), No. 205 \$15.00

YEREVAN WOMEN'S CHOIR (CD) No. 207a \$15.00

NOR YERK - TZENDZATZEK DEROCHMOV (Rejoice in the Lord) #3 (in Armenian - CD), No. 208d \$15.00

NOR YERK - TARTZIR, AZKS HAY (Return to me, My Armenian People) #4 (in Armenian - CD), No. 208f \$15.00

NAYINK HISOUSI #1 & 2, AND HAYREPAGHTS by Rev. Barkev Apartian No. 211 (\$10 each if sold separately) Set of 3 tapes \$25.00

THE ART OF THE ARMENIAN TAR, Hovhannes Darbinian (CD), No. 300 \$15.00

ARMENIAN HYMNS, Amalia Hagopian (CD) No. 301 \$10.00

ARMENIAN BIBLES

OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS

ARMENIAN NEW TESTAMENT ON TAPES (The Four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) - No. 195 \$20.00

OLD & NEW TESTAMENT (hc - extra large) No. 13k, \$20.00

SERPAZAN BADMUTIUN, (Children's Bible) No. 155b \$10.00

BOOK ORDER FORM

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Please forward Book(s) {List by catalogue No.(s)}
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Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

(Make checks payable to AMAA - Canada: Payable in U.S. dollars -
Prices subject to change)

This summer in Trad, Lebanon



A group of children with their leaders, preparing for an activity.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3.17)

48 children, ranging from ages 5-13, of whom 25 were students at the Armenian Evangelical Elementary School of Trad, and 15 at other Armenian or Arab schools, enjoyed the faithfulness and blessing of God during our summer playground ministry at the Armenian Evang'l Social Service Center in Trad, Bourj Hammoud, during Sept. 2001.

The Children's Bible study topics focused on personalities in the Old Testament. From their lives the children learned about the importance of "Depending on God," "Obeying God" and "Worshipping God Alone."

It is of particular note that standing behind these planners and leaders, there was a group of prayer warriors supporting their efforts. The Armenian Missionary Association of America, as in the past, supported this project and several other similar Vacation Bible Schools in the Middle East. □

Children's Summer Camp of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Bulgaria

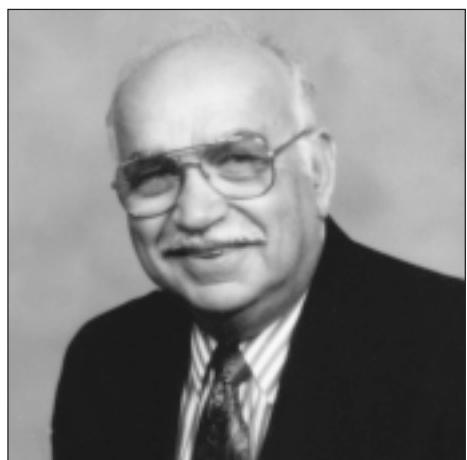
This is the sixth year that the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Bulgaria organized Summer Camps for Children ranging from ages 7-12 and 13-17, from July 30 - August 11. The Camp site was at the Colleo Ficheto Rest Homes in the city of Vellingrad. 80 children attended the camp with counselors from Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and Rousse.

The leader of the younger group was Sister Mannig Kouyoumdjian from Plovdiv and for the older group was Brother Sarkis Hovhannessian, a seminary student from Sofia.

Brothers Hrant and Joseph Keshishian of Varna, who are seminary students at the Near East School of Theology led devotionals each morning and Eva Antonova of Varna was in charge of music.

As in the past year, the Armenian Missionary Association of America supported this camp project. □

Rev. Guekguezian Named Pastor Emeritus



Members of the First Armenian Presbyterian church of Fresno, CA, conferred the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus upon retired Rev. Bernard Asadoor Guekguezian, tenth pastor of the congregation.

Rev. Guekguezian has served Armenian Evangelical churches both in the Middle East and the U.S. He is married to the former Knar Kazanjian and they have two sons, Rev. Ara R. Guekguezian of Fresno and Asbed B. Guekguezian, Esq. of Massachusetts, and five grandchildren. □



AMAA's Armenia Summer Camp and Christmas Committee Celebrates Christmas in October as a Fundraiser



(l. to r.) Mr. Dennis William, Mrs. Lucy Janjigian, Mr. Andy Torigian, Mrs. Lynn Beylerian and Rev. Jirair Sogomian.

It was a brisk fall day. The AMAA Headquarters at 31 West Century Road, Paramus, was decked beautifully for a celebration of "Christmas in October" Buffet on October 11th. Christmas music was heard throughout the building, and a Christmas tree in the foyer greeted the guests as they arrived. This Party was the first fund raiser by the Armenia Summer Camp and Christmas Committee with the proceeds going towards the Christmas Joy Packages for Armenia and

Karabagh. Guests started arriving at 11 a.m. and had time to mingle before the program. Chairperson, Lucy Janjigian welcomed the guests and described the committee's responsibilities which included fund raising, collecting and purchasing Arts & Crafts materials, sports equipment, games and prizes

for the camps, and Christmas Joy Packages. A new and much needed project was initiated this spring "Search for Sneakers." The committee was introduced and praised for their dedicated work.

Two guests were honored on this occasion for their generous contributions over the past years: Mrs. Lynn Beylerian, proprietor of Treasure Island, and Mr. Dennis Williams, Sr. vice President, from Toys R US. They were each presented with a hand

crafted gift from Armenia.

A moment of silent prayer was held for the dead, and for the comfort of the families of the World Trade Center tragedy which had occurred same day of the previous month.

Rev. Jirair Sogomian, Executive Director, Mr. Dikran Youmshakian, Administrative Director, Mr. Andy Torigian, President and Mr. Edward Janjigian, past president of the AMAA Board were introduced. The Rev. Sogomian delivered an informative report about his recent visit to Armenia and stressed the great need for our help. He also gave the invocation before the luncheon.

A delectable buffet prepared by the committee was enjoyed by all. A slide presentation by Elbiz Baghdikian and Louisa Janbazian showed the AMAA centers, churches and summer camps they visited this past July in Armenia and Karabagh and reported on the distribution of the sneakers in which they took part. Assorted desserts, fruits, cheeses and coffee concluded the gathering.

The spirit of love and sharing prevailed throughout the gathering and the Committee was most encouraged by the response.□

Rev. Gilbert Leonian visits the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Bulgaria

The Rev. Gilbert Leonian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe, made a pastoral visit on behalf of the AMAA to our sister churches in Bulgaria (located in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Roussé, Bourgas and Choumen), from July 4-18, 2001.

A country of eight million inhabitants, Bulgaria shares with Armenia a history of centuries of trials and massacres at the hands of the Ottoman Empire and the Soviet Union. Independent for the last eleven years, the country desperately tries to regain social and economic prosperity and dignity.

The Armenian population in Bulgaria, estimated at 15,000 people concentrated in half a dozen large cities, is composed of old stock and recent illegal immigrants from Armenia in need of material and spiritual help. During the last decade, Christian spirituality has experienced a real resurrection. Pas-

tor Jean Agopian and his partner in the Mission Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France, always supported by the AMAA, were God's ambassadors to the country at the most opportune moment. Rev. Leonian's visit sponsored by the AMAA provided a most vitally needed support to our Armenian Evangelical Churches and their pastoral leadership.□



The congregation of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Varna after Sunday Worship Service (2nd left is Rev. Leonian with his wife, Leah).

Վեր. ՄՈՎՍԵՍ Պ. ՃԱՆՊԱԶԵԼԱՆԻ ՅԻՇԱՏԱԿԻՆ
Մահուան Ա. Տարելիցին առիթով

Վեր. Յովհաննես Սարմազեան

Այս ընթացիկ Սեպտեմբերի աւարտեցաւ նաեւ Վեր. Մովսէս Ճանպազելանի մահուան առաջին հետ՝ տարելիցը: Վեր. Ճանպազելանի անակնկալ եւ վաղաժամ մահը իր օրին, մեծապէս ցնցեց ոչ միայն իր ընտանիքի անդամներն ու այնքան շատ սիրած Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան այդ մեծ ընտանիքը, այլ նաեւ աշխարհացրիւ ամբողջ Հայ Աւետարանական Համայնքն ու Հայ ժողովուրդը ֆիչ մը ամէն տեղ՝ կարելի է ըսել:

Վեր. Մովսէս Ճանպազելան կարծես Աւետարանչականի գործին համար ծնած եւ նախախնամութեամբ, ճիշդ ժամանակին զայն ստանձնող մարդը եղաւ: Ան կրցաւ ձեռնիհասօրեն վարել Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան վարիչ Տեղօրէնի այդ մեծ պարագաներին համար ծամանակի ի գործին պահանջող պաշտօնը, եւ կարեն ժամանակի ընթաց ֆին, ընդարձակելով անոր ծառայութեան դաշտը, մեծ օրինութիւն դարձուց զայն յատկապէս Հայրենիքի մէջ ապրող՝ եւ կարօտեալ մեր ազգի զաւակներուն համար:

Վեր. Ճանպազելանի մահէն մէկ տարի ետք, հիմա կարծես հետզհետէ իր բացակայութիւնը շատ աւելի զգալի կը դառնայ ոչ միայն Հայ Աւետարանական համայնքէն ներս, այլ նաեւ միջ-համայնքային մեր Հայ շրջանակին ներս: Մանաւանդ 1700-ամեակի յորելինական այս տարուան ընթաց ֆին, անոր ներկայութիւնը փնտուուցաւ Հայ եկեղեցական շրջանակներէ ներս, ամէնուր:

Գերգագայուն եւ խորապէս հաղորդական անձնաւորութիւն մըն էր Վեր. Ճանպազելան: Դիտէր իր մտքերը յստակօրէն բանաձեւել եւ փոխանցել զանոնիք իր ունկնդիրներուն եւ մտածումի եւ գործի մղել զանոնիք: Հեղինակաւոր էին անոր խօսքերը եւ համոզիշ, քանի որ անոնիք կը բխէին խորունկ հաւատքի եւ անսակարգ հաւատքի սիրով յորդող հոգիի մը ակունքներէն: Զօրեղ էին իր մէջ այդ հաւատքն ու սէրը որ ունէր հանդէպ իր գործին եւ մարդկութեան, եւ յատկապէս իր ազգի զաւակներուն: Կը կրկնեմ, Վեր. Ճանպազելանի ունեցած հաւատքն ու սէրը տինամիկ

ուժի վերածուած էին իր մէջ, քանի որ անոնիք պարզ մարդկային ըլլալէ աւելի անդին երթալով, իրենց հոսանքը կ'առնեին այն Տէրոջմէ (Քրիստոնէ), որուն հաւատարմօրէն ծառայելու ուխտ մը կատարած էր օր մը Վեր. Ճանպազելան:

Իր գիտացի մարդու հեզութիւնն ու խոնարհութիւնը, զինք մատչելի եւ սիրելի դարձուցած էին ամէն խաւի եւ դասակարգի պատկանող մարդոց քով: Իր այցելութիւններն ու ներկայութիւնը եկեղեցական շրջանակներէ ներս, հոգեւոր նոր քափ եւ ներշնչում կը բերէին յանախ:

Վեր. Մովսէս Ճանպազելան ունէր տակաւին անկատար իղձեր, երազ եւ տեսիլք, յատկապէս Հայրենիքի մէջ ապրող մեր ժողովուրդին ծառայելու իր այդ սրբազն առաքելութեան մէջ: Բայց ափսէ՞ս, այդ բոլորը մնացին անկատար՝ եւ ինք ինկաւ պատնեշի վրայ:

Եւ հիմա, իր վաղաժամ եւ դառնադէտ մահէն մէկ տարի ետք, աւելի քան երբեք, բոլորս ալ վեր. Ճանպազելանի բացակայութիւնը խորապէս կը զգանիք, եւ իր ներկայութիւնը կը փնտունիք միշտ: Այս առքիւ մեր աղօթքն ու մաղթանիքն է, որ բարձրեալն Աստուած Վեր. Ճանպազելանի ծառայութեան վաստակը ներշնչումի աղբիւր եւ օրինութիւն դարձնէ ներկայ եւ գալիք մեր սերունդներուն, Զօր Աստուծոյ փառքին համար:



Մաքրուհի Քէհեանան

Վեր. Ժիրայր Պղոփիկան

Մաքրուհի Քէհեան ծնած է Ալտանա, 30 Սևառանքի 1911-ին։ Ան աղջիկն է թարութիւն և Անգամ Պէզիկանենքու։ Հազիւ վեց ամսուայ երեխայ՝ ան կը կորսնցնէ իր մայրը։ Հայրը՝ Յարութիւն, կը կին կ'ամուսնանայ լուսաբեր Տուլպանանի հետ և այս վերշնին կ'ըլլայ փոքրիկն Մաքրուհին գուրգբուրոս և հոգատար մայրը։



Նախնական ուսումը կը ստանայ Ալտանայի մէջ։ 1922-ին ընտանիքով կը փոխադրուին Լիբանան ուր Մաքրուհի իր ուսումը կը շարունակէ Աղջկանց Ամբերիկան Բարձրագոյն Վարժարանին մէջ, ուրիկէ քշանաւարտ ըլլալ ետք կը հրաւիրուի ծառայելու էջրէֆիէի Հայ Աւետարանական Կելլորնական Բարձրագոյն Վարժարանին մէջ որպէս ուսուցչուի։

Օգոստոս 22, 1934-ին կ'ամուսնանայ Աւետիս Քէհեանանի հետ ու սիրով կ'ապրին աւելի բան վարտուն տարիներ։ Անոնց սիրոյ բոյնին մէջ կը ծննին ուրը գաւակներ, որոնցմէ երեք կը մահանան տակաւին երեխայ հասակին։ Մաքրուհի և Աւետիս Քէհեանաներ կ'ունենան տասելի ինք քողովութեան ուրութիւններ։

1973-ին Մաքրուհին և իր ամուսինը՝ Աւետիս, կը հաստատուին Մոնթքէալ, Գանձատա և կ'անդամակցին Մոնթքէալի Հայ Աւետարանական Մայր Եկեղեցիին։ Անոնք կ'ըլլան գործունեայ անդամները Եկեղեցիին։ 1997-ին Մաքրուհի կը կորսնցնէ իր կողակիցը երկար հիւանդութեան ետք։

Այս տարուայ Փետրուարին, Մաքրուհին առողջութիւնը խախտուեցաւ բաղցկեղի հիւանդութեան հետեւան բով։ Մայսին ան նաև ունեցաւ ուղեղային կարուած մը, որուն հետեւանքը եղաւ, իր ցաւերու կարգին՝ կորսնցնել նաև իր քալելու և խօսելու կարողութիւնը։ Կիրակի 15 Ցուլսի գիշերուան ժամերուն Մաքրուհին աւանդեց իր հոգին։

Ահա այս կերպով կը վերջանար իննիստուն տարիներու երկար ու քեղուն կեանք մը։ Մենք ճանչցանք զինք որպէս խորութիւնը եւք, բարեպաշտ և եկեղեցաւ կին մը։ Կանուի հասակէն ան ճանչցած և ընդունած էր Յիսուսը որպէս իր անձնական Փրկիչն ու Տէրը։ Այս բոլոր տարիներուն ան մնաց հաստատ իր ուխտին մէջ, հաւատարիմ Քրիստոսի և իր Եկեղեցիին։ Իր բարեպաշտ և օրինական կեանքին կը մնան որպէս անձնշնչի քրիստոնեական կեանքը, վկայութիւնը և ծառայութիւնը մէջ բոլոր կը մնան որպէս անձնշնչի քրիստոնեական կեանքի կորող մը։ Եւ անոր Քրիս-

տոնավայել կեանքէն օգտուեցան ոչ միայն իր զաւակները և սրտահատորները, այլ նաև մենք բոլոր։ Իր սրբակեաց անձնառութիւնը բողոք իր կնիքը և ազդեցութիւնը մեր բոլորին վրայ, մղելով մեզ ըլլալու աւելի լաւ մարդ, աւելի լաւ Քրիստոնեայ։

Իր բոլոր կեանքի ընթացքին Մաքրուհին եղած է ծառայասէր՝ թէ իր ընտանիքին, թէ իր Եկեղեցիին և թէ ալ իր ազգին համար։ Իր բոլոր գովելի յատկութիւններով հանդերձ՝ ան եղած է խոնարի ու համեստ կեցուածքով մէկը, բաղցրաքարոյ, ազիւն և անյօշ ժպիտով կին մը։

Իմաստուն և առաքինի կին մըն էր Մաքրուհին, նման «առաքինի» կնոջ որ նկարագրուած է Առակաց գիրքին մէջ։ Ան բարիացակամ ու մարդաւոր էր, կարծես Աստուծոյ սէրը կը յորդէր իր սրտէն, այնպէս ինչպէս կը նկարագրէ Պողոս Առաքեալ (Ա. Կոր. 13), «Սէրը երկայնամիտ է, բայցը է, ... իր ենք չինսուեր, ... շարութիւն չխորիիր, անիբար կամ բարձրաւոր կամ միշտ չինդար, ... ամէն բանի կը զիշանի, ... ամէն բանի կը համբերէ»։ Այս բոլորին հետ ան գիտակից եւ տնտեսագէտ մէկը եղած է։

90 րդ Սաղմոսին կ'երջաւորութեան աղօք լը, «մէր ձեռ քերուն գործ քաստակ», որքան պատշաճ ու տեղին է վերագրել Տիկ։ Մաքրուհի Քէհեանանի կեանքին։ Արդարեւ կեղեցին ալ այնակցելով Աստուծոյ խօսքին կ'ըսէ իր այս սիրելի զաւակին, «Ապրիս, բարի ու հաւատարիմ ծառայ, մտիր քու Տէրոջ ուրախութեանը մէջ»։

Ովսաննա Եռումուշագեան

Տիկին Ովսաննա Եռումուշագեան ծննդարձան ծննած է 1925-ին, Առանա, Առաքել և Հայկուհի Առաքելաններու ընտանիքին մէջ։



Չորս տարեկանին ընտանիքը փոխադրուած է Զահկէ, Լիքանան, և ապա Պէյրութ Յանձախած

Է նոր Մարաշի Հայ Աւետարանական Վարժարանը ու եղած է փայլում աշակերտ։ Տիկին Ովսաննա ամուսնացած է 1946-ին Տիար Աւետիս Եռումուշագեանի հետ և ունեցած են չորս զաւակներ՝ Ալիս, Լուիզա, Տիգրան և Գրիգոր։ Մահով կորսնցուցած են երկու նորածին մանուկներ։ Իրենց ամուսնութեան 15 տարիներ ետք, դառն հիւանդութիւնը խլած է իր ամուսնոյն կեանքը, ետին ճգելով այրի Տիկին Ովսաննան իր չորս մանուկ-պատանի զաւակներով։ Մեծ զոհողութիւններով ինքինին տուած է աշխատանքին և գործած է երկար տարիներ հոգալու և խնամելու իր չորս զաւակները, չզրկելու համար զանոնք դպրոցէն ու նկեղեցիէն։ Անոր

զաւակներուն կեանքը, նորիումը եւ ծառայութիւններ փաստա և ու կը փաստեն այս իրողութիւնը։ Անոնք մեծ հաջան եկեղեցիին մէջ եւ կը շարունակեն իրենց կազմա։ Ան միշտ հպարտ էր իր ուրը բողոքներով՝ Կրէկորի, Զայա, Վահագ, Անի, Աւո, Դենի, Վարագ և Լորի, տեսնելով անոնց փայլութեան պագանի։ Ան միշտ փառ կուտար իր կրտսերագոյն որդիքը Գրիգորի համար, որ հովուական կոչում տանալով նղան է հոգեւոր մշակ։

Տիկին Ովսաննա եղած է նոր Ամանոսի Հայ Աւետարանակամ էմմանուէլ Եկեղեցիի հաւատարիմ անդամներուն մէկը։ Եկեղեցին իրեն համար հարազատ նախանձիք մը սեպած է, որուն պաշտամունքները, աղօքածողները եւ գործունեութիւնները չեր ուզեր, բայց աժողովներուն մէր նույնածած է բոլորին առջեւ։ Շատեր վայելած են անոր հոգածութիւններ ու չերմ հիւրափորտիւնը։ Աստուածաբարական Ճեմարանի ուսանողներ, հովիւներ, բարեկամներ եւ ազգականներ են միշտ եղած են իր հիւրերը, միշտ իւն իւն կեանքի վերջին օրերուն։ Ան իր համեստ պայմաններուն մէջ ընդունած է զանոնք իր տուեր մէծ սիրով եւ առանց ակնկալութեան Արդարորէն իր բնակարանը կոչուած է «Ենումուշագեան Պանդրկ»։

Վերջին ամիսներուն Տիկին Ովսաննա տկարացաւ և անոր տկար մարմինը չկրցաւ յաղթահարել հիւանդութեան։ Ան իր աշխարը փակեց Երկուշարքի, 24 Սեպտեմբերեր, 2001, երեկոյեան ժամը 9:30-ին։

Տիկին Ովսաննա եղած է տիպար հայ մայր մը, արուեցաւ և տուալ իր լաւագոյնը բոլորին, բայց մանաւանդ Աստուծոյ։ Զաւատաց ու այդ հաւատքը պահեց միշտ իւն իւն կեանքի վերջին օրերուն։ Ան իր համեստ պայմաններուն մէջ ընդունած է զանոնք իր տուեր մէծ սիրով եւ առանց ակնկալութեան Արդարորէն իր բնակարանը կոչուած է «Ենումուշագեան Պանդրկ»։

Վերջին ամիսներուն Տիկին Ովսաննա եղած է տիպար հայ մայր մայր մը, արուեցաւ և տուալ իր լաւագոյնը բոլորին, յաղթահարել հիւանդութեան։ Ան իր աշխարը փակեց Երկուշարքի, 24 Սեպտեմբերեր, 2001, երեկոյեան ժամը 9:30-ին։

Տիկին Ովսաննա եղած է տիպար հայ մայր մայր մը, արուեցաւ և տուալ իր լաւագոյնը բոլորին, յաղթահարել հիւանդութեան։ Ան իր աշխարը փակեց Երկուշարքի, 24 Սեպտեմբերեր, 2001, երեկոյեան ժամը 9:30-ին։

Տիկին Ովսաննա եղած է տիպար հայ մայր մայր մը, արուեցաւ և տուալ իր լաւագոյնը բոլորին, յաղթահարել հիւանդութեան։ Ան իր աշխարը փակեց Երկուշարքի, 24 Սեպտեմբերեր, 2001, երեկոյեան ժամը 9:30-ին։

Տիկին Ովսաննա եղած է տիպար հայ մայր մայր մը, արուեցաւ և տուալ իր լաւագոյնը բոլորին, յաղթահարել հիւանդութեան։ Ան իր աշխարը փակեց Երկուշարքի, 24 Սեպտեմբերեր, 2001, երեկոյեան ժամը 9:30-ին։

Տիկին Ովսաննա եղած է տիպար հայ մայր մայր մը, արուեցաւ և տուալ իր լաւագոյնը բոլորին, յաղթահարել հիւանդութեան։ Ան իր աշխարը փակեց Երկուշարքի, 24 Սեպտեմբերեր, 2001, երեկոյեան ժամը 9:30-ին։

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Peter Manoogian

Peter Manoogian of Yorktown, VA, passed away on July 30, 2001. He was born in Adana, Turkey on March 8, 1915 in an American Mission Hospital. His father, Sisag, was a minister and his mother, Marika, was the organist of the church and a Sunday School teacher.



He was born to an Armenian father and Greek mother during an ominous time. From 1915-1919 the Turks enforced an ethnic cleansing, which eventually resulted in the massacre of about 1.5 million Armenians. Peter's family lived in hiding much of this time. When Peter was just a few months old, the order came for his family to be deported to the desert of Deir-el-Zor, Syria. Sisag told Marika to take whatever was necessary for the baby, and to include a towel. He felt sure that Peter would die on the way and he wanted to be able to bury the body rather than abandon it - as others had done with their dead. We still have that towel, as a reminder of God's protection of Peter. His parents then dedicated Peter to God with the promise that, if he lived, he would be a missionary to the Moslems. This promise was fulfilled many years later.

Church attendance and its activities were always a priority in Peter's life. In his youth, he was a member of 'Christian Endeavor'. In High School, Peter was active in sports. He became friends with his British principal; and together, they hiked the mountains of Lebanon and Syria, and played violin duets. Peter graduated with honors from Broummana High School in 1933 and entered the American University of Beirut where he received his B.A. in Medicine in 1937, and an M.D. in Medicine and Surgery in 1942.

His first medical job was at the Presbyterian Mission Hospital in Tripoli, Lebanon. Later, Dr. Hairy Boyes, Peter's spiritual and professional mentor, asked him to relocate and head the medical team in the remote desert area of Deir-el-Zor, where Presbyterians had a satellite mission hospital. This was how the prayers of Sisag and Marika Manoogian were answered - Peter became a missionary to the Moslems in the region where so many Armenians had died from the massacre.

Peter learned to speak 6 languages. He insisted on speaking to his patients in their own regional dialects, without an interpreter.

Peter was transferred back to the hospital in

Tripoli, where he worked with, and befriended another dedicated Christian doctor, Puzant Krikorian. They prayed together about helping the Armenian refugees who had settled in squalid conditions on the banks of the Beirut River. In 1948 they asked Mr. Augustine Badeer, a businessman, to join them. Thus the Christian Medical Center Hospital [C.M.C.] was founded in January 1949 to provide excellent medical care at a price the refugees could afford.

An American nurse from Hannibal, Missouri providentially volunteered to fill in for one month. Iola McClellan never left. As she worked closely with Peter, they fell in love, and their wedding took place in January 1950. Iola founded the C.M.C. School for Nursing and to this union six children were born, and Peter was a wonderful and loving father. He passed on to them his vast repertoire of classical music and folklore and attended their school functions whenever he could get away from the hospital.

Peter had a very keen interest in the history and archeology of the Middle East. He instructed his children on historical facts and details, in his own version of the 3 R's - Rocks, Roads, and Ruins.

Most of all, though, Peter taught his children about his Lord and Savior. He read the Bible to them and prayed with them, but they also saw him reading his devotional and Bible each morning. They heard him witness to his patients about Jesus and saw him distribute tracts in his clinic. He gave them a deep Christian heritage that follows them to this day.

In 1986, due to the political upheaval in Lebanon, Peter and Iola were forced to vacate the hospital. They left their beloved country and started a new life in Yorktown, Virginia. Church, choir, and historical sites remained interests of Peter as he contributed to the local community. He volunteered as a translator for the Red Cross and the Hampton Roads judicial system.

Peter Manoogian had served for many years as Chairman of the Board for the Trad school in Beirut - which was also founded to serve the Armenian refugees in Beirut. It is the family's wish to continue his legacy with the foundation of the Peter Manoogian Memorial Fund, to educate many destitute children who cannot afford tuition. □

John Simourian

John Simourian of Lincoln, MA passed away at home from heart failure on Saturday, August 4. Born in Harpoon on December 21, 1906, he emigrated with his family to the United States in 1907 and settled in Boston, MA. In 1932, he married Lillian Margosian.

Their marriage, lasted 69 happy years.

John started his business career with the Jordan Marsh Company in Boston. That career was interrupted by World War II, and in 1942 he started his own trucking company, which he ran successfully until he sold it. He remained active in business, however, until age of 93.

He was a member of the First Armenian Church of Belmont where he was a trustee and on various other committees. He was also a supporter of the Armenian Library and Museum of America.

He leaves his wife Lillian; children Carole Esserian and her husband Bill Dwyer, John A. Simourian and his wife Michele, Edward A. Simourian, and Deborah Jamgochian and her husband George; grandchildren Pamela Kminske, Melanie Jndl, John Esserian, John Simourian II, Nicole Chapman, George and John Jamgochian and seven great-grandchildren. He was the brother of Rose Atamian. He also leaves many nieces and nephews. □

Grace Ajemian Zobian

Daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin, friend, child of God! She was all of these and more in her ninety-six years on earth.



In Kharpert, Turkey, Takouhi (Grace) was the first-born of Aghavni Tufankjian and Hagop Ajemian on Easter morning, 1905. Although they were members of the Armenian Apostolic Church, her family also took part in Protestant services as well. After some years of a child's happy life, the family experienced the Armenian Genocide. Their lives were spared; however, her father died in 1918.

In 1923, along with her mother, brother and sister, she was able to join relatives in the United States. Due to quota discrepancies, they had to cross the Atlantic three times before they entered via Ellis Island. She welcomed her new life wholeheartedly, graduating from Roselle Park High School in NJ, teaching Sunday School in her local Episcopal church, and even adopting a new American name, "Grace". Throughout her life, Grace appreciated her adopted country and never failed to extol its many advantages and gifts.

Grace worked for a few years as a bookkeeper/secretary and then left NJ to marry Joseph Zobian in 1929 and begin a new life in Philadelphia. From the start, she embraced the Armenian Martyrs' Church, as a choir mem-

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ber, active in the Ladies' Aid, and later as Deaconess and Treasurer. She also stepped into activities with the AGBU and Daughters of Vartan, serving in many offices and as president.

Joseph and Grace were blessed with three children - Diane, Doris, and Edward. Sadly her loving partnership with Joseph ended with his death in 1943 after three years of serious illness. At the age of 38, Grace bravely accepted her new role as a single parent of three children aged 12, 10, and 3. In the midst of her responsibilities and stress, she always sought learning and growth for herself and her children. She appreciated education, the arts, and relied strongly on her Christian faith. She emphasized these traits and passed them on to her children, all of whom completed university and this gave her much satisfaction. As a family, they strove to be a strong unit for support of one another, led by Grace's loving concern. In these early years and throughout her life, the church was very much a stalwart part of this family; the pastors and God's wisdom were sought in making all significant decisions.

Grace traveled widely, created many pieces of intricate handiwork and enjoyed music and concerts. As her body aged, her mind and soul remained youthful. She had an outgoing spirit of hospitality and interest in others.

Grace Zobian approached death with the same curiosity she had toward her faith. She often said, "I don't know what death holds, but I know that God has watched over me all my life and will continue to care for me in eternity."

Grace is survived by her children, Diane and Charles DeMirjian, Doris and Rev. Dr. Carnegie Samuel Calian, Dr. Edward and Barbara Zobian. Her grandchildren are Susari, Timothy and Jackie, Michael DeMirjian; Lois (Calian) and Dennis Trautvetter, Philip and Jill Calian, Sara (Calian) and Raffi Kaprielian, M.D.; Joseph and Fritza, Matthew, Edward (Ted), and David Zobian.

A memorial service was held at the Armenian Martyrs' Cong'l Church of Havertown, PA sanctuary on August 25, 2001. Memorial donations may be made to the church or to the AMAA. Thanks be to God for the life and witness of Grace Zobian. □

Jessie Helen Maghakian Sarian

Jessie Helen Maghakian Sarian was born in New Britain, CT on February 16, 1926 to refugee parents. She moved with her family to Los Angeles some eleven years later. She at-



tended Dorsey High School and graduated from UCLA in 1947. She left a biology teaching career in San Pedro to marry Jirair Sarian and to have three children, Norita, June and John. For nearly 50 years, she lived in Ladera Heights.

She always said that the most important day of her life was when she surrendered her heart and will to Jesus Christ. She was 16 years old when this happened. Her faith and commitment to Christ, His Word, and His call shaped her days in very obvious and wonderful ways. She lived an honest, intense life of seeking God's will in everything she did. While in the university, she attended Intervarsity as well as becoming a member of Alpha Delta Ki, a Christian sorority founded at UCLA. She was greatly influenced by the Navigators and spent hundreds of hours memorizing scripture. With Jirair she prayed daily for their personal lives as well as for the circumstances and lives of their loved ones. She taught Sunday School, led neighborhood Good News Clubs for Child Evangelism Fellowship, where many children, including her oldest daughter, opened their hearts for the first time to the Lord. She was an active member of several Women's Bible Study groups as well as several auxiliaries. She participated with Jirair in parent-teacher associations and being on the advisory council for the Young Life Club of Inglewood. For over fifteen years, she participated in Christian Released Time Education, weekly teaching public elementary school kids in Inglewood and Hollywood the truths of God's love and the real meaning of the cross and power of Christ.

At one time Jessie seriously considered becoming a missionary to take the Good News of God's plan to people who'd never had the opportunity to hear of it, but marriage to Jirair kept her in the USA. However, their lives together meant that many others were supported to go out, and her hospitality meant that many were given meals and beds when traveling or ministering in Los Angeles. Her continued giving to churches, mission organizations, and individuals is a memorial to her understanding that everything she owned actually belonged to God. Her home and table were a constant source of encouragement, joy and spiritual challenge for her extended family.

Jessie believed in, practiced, and experienced Spirit-led prayer. She prayed for her children and rejoiced when each in their own time came into that relationship with Christ. She prayed for her church and her pastors and for missionaries. Even though suffering many physical ailments, she prayed for the sick. She prayed for abandoned handicapped chil-

dren in Turkey and the many people both Turk and foreign who were ministering to these children. She prayed for all the presidents and their cabinets. She prayed for those who hurt her as well as for her friends and often blessed them. Ultimately, her focus was not on herself but on her Lord, what He wanted and for the well-being of others, recognizing that God cared more intimately for those she prayed for than she ever could. One day we'll learn just how many of us were eternally changed because she was obedient to the call to "Seek My Face and Pray!"

After struggling for four months with cancer, Jessie was led into heaven on August 28, 2001 to join Jirair who'd preceded her by three years. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News.

- * **Alexanian, Priscilla**
Pasadena, CA
- * **Atamian, Rosemary**
Watertown, MA
- * **Benglian, Vahan**
Media, PA
- * **Cardelucci, Jackie**
Newport Beach, CA
- * **Chakerian Mullisen, Mary Arpine**
Garland, TX
- * **Ekmekjian, Zevart**
Laval, Que., Canada
- * **Emanatian, George**
Cohoes, NY
- * **Javian, Barjig**
Arlington, MA
- * **Kalunian, Terry**
Narragansett, RI
- * **Kaprielian, James Robert**
Fresno, CA
- * **Keteyan, Arshalous**
Royal Oak, MI
- * **Kuredjian, Hagop**
Simi Valley, CA
- * **Manoogian, Ellen**
Everett, MA
- * **Markarian, Mary**
Sherman Oaks, CA
- * **Maroukian, Anna**
Ventnor, NJ
- * **Miridjanian, Katherine**
La Jolla, CA
- * **Nahabedian, Marie**
Fresno, CA
- Paravazian, Kevork**
Forest Hills, NY
- * **Balakian, Seto**

* Memorials were designated for AMAA.

ACMF PROVIDES LIFE SAVING NOURISHMENT TO CHILDREN IN ARMENIA



Heghinar and Sassounig Ghazarian of Solag, Armenia have six young children, including the triplets pictured here. When the triplets were born last winter, the family faced the difficult challenge of providing sufficient nutrition for the babies. They turned to the Armenian Children's Milk Fund (ACMF) for help. ACMF has provided Isomil formula to the Ghazarian triplets free of charge. Today, as they approach their first birthday, the triplets are healthy and developing normally.

Over the last twelve years, similar stories from Armenia have indeed encouraged us to continue with the unique relief program of providing infants in Armenia with much needed Isomil milk formula. Through the generous support received from our members and friends, the ACMF has made a positive impact on thousands of children in Armenia, giving them a healthy start in their early lives. Today, it is heartwarming to see some of these children healthy in their teenage years.

Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of a helpless, needy child, is an excellent opportunity to make a commitment to continue with our support. A case of Isomil is purchased for \$19.00. A commitment of \$228.00 per year will save the life of yet another child in Armenia. Please help. You will feel the blessedness of your giving.□

Yes, I would like to make a commitment and save the life of a child in Armenia.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ for _____ cases of Isomil milk formula.

Name _____

Address _____

(please make tax deductible donations to AMAA earmarked for ACMF, and mail to 31 W. Century Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652).

Armenian Missionary Association of America

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